



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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ELYMUS FLAVESCENS **SAND WILDRYE**

Sand Wildrye is a perennial grass that forms large clumps of leaves and stems which reach up to 100 cm high and arise from deep rhizomes. The glabrous leaves are 3-5 mm wide with inrolled margins. The ligule is ca. 1 mm high. Spikelets are 15-25 mm long and are arranged opposite each other at each node in a narrow spike that is 12-20 cm long. Each spikelet has a pair of short-awned glumes at its base and 5-9 flowers, each of which has a densely long-hairy lemma that is 11-15 mm long and a smaller palea. Fruiting in July-August.

Distinguished from related species and genera by long-hairy spikelets paired at the nodes, spike inflorescence greater than 10 cm long, and the sand dune habitat.